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STATE COUNCIL OF CIVIL DEFENSE
MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

January 10, 1955

INFORMATION CIRCULAR NO. 58

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PLAN FOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS - PENNSYLVANIA

CIVIL DEFENSE RADIO AMATEUR SYSTEM
(Supplementing Information Circular
No. 11, dated November 21, 1951)

1. To supplement other emergency communications facilities, the State Council of Civil Defense, late in 1951, requested licensed radio amateurs in Pennsylvania to volunteer to assist in the organization and operation of the Pennsylvania Civil Defense Radio Amateur System (Information Circular No. 11, dated November 21, 1951).

2. As tentatively planned (Paragraph 2, Information Circular No. 11), the proposed amateur organization provided for establishment of two types of "net systems". One of these was a statewide, low frequency, inter-county network designed primarily to carry civil defense traffic between individual counties and the State Control Centers at Harrisburg, Ogontz and Butler. The second was to be composed of a number of high frequency, intra-county networks designed primarily to carry civil defense traffic within each of the several counties of the Commonwealth.

3. To plan and organize the statewide, low frequency, inter-county net system and to assist in the planning and organization of high frequency, intra-county networks, the State Council of Civil Defense appointed the following individuals to serve as Officers of the Pennsylvania Civil Defense Radio Amateur System:

Charles G. Landis, W3UA, Chairman
Highville
Conestoga Route 2, Penna.
Paul D. Mercado, W3FBF, Eastern Area Director
55 Lindbergh Ave.
Broomall, Penna.
E. Daniel Leibensperger, W3JXQ, Central Area Director
216 No. 25th. Street
Camp Hill, Penna.
Robert A. Blackburn, W3MPO, Western Area Director
P. O. Box #2
Ingomar, Penna.
Leigh W. Blakslee, W3BGR, Alternate Eastern Area Director
Valley Road
Wawa, Penna.

A. B. K[illegible]ple, W3DJZ, Alternate Central Area [illegible]irector
522 Bosler Ave.
Lemoyne, Penna.
Lawrence K. Jones, W3CTN, Alternate Western Area Director
17 Leon Road
Pittsburgh 20, Penna.

4. All radio amateurs are licensed by the Federal Communications Commission and must operate in strict accordance with rules, regulations and orders promulgated by that agency. During wartime or under conditions of national emergency, regulations of the Commission provide that radio amateurs may operate only in accordance with specific emergency plans previously approved both by the Federal Civil Defense Administration and the Commission. These plans relate to what is known as the "Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service" and are accordingly called "RACES" plans. Federal regulations require both a "State Races Plan" primarily governing the statewide, low frequency, inter-county net and "County Races Plans" relating primarily to individual, high frequency, intra-county networks. One of the principal objectives of "Races" is to provide for the most effective possible use of the limited transmission frequencies available for amateur operations.

5. The Officers of the Pennsylvania Civil Defense Radio Amateur System have prepared and the State Council of Civil Defense, the Federal Civil Defense Administration and the Federal Communications Commission formally have approved a "State Races Plan" for Pennsylvania. For county use, each County Civil Defense Director herewith is being furnished one (1) copy of the plan as approved. In addition, System Area Directors will see to it that radio amateurs now serving in the statewide, low frequency network are provided with copies of the plan as may be required. Additional copies will be prepared and provided for distribution to Local Civil Defense Directors and radio amateurs serving high frequency, intra-county networks just as soon as the federal authorities approve those changes in the plan which are necessitated by the recent realignment of the State's three Civil Defense Operational Areas (See Information Circular No. 51, dated August 13, 1954).

6. Primary responsibility for organization and operation of the statewide, low frequency, inter-county network rests with the State Council of Civil Defense. To be effective, however, these activities require the cooperation and support of both radio amateurs and County Civil Defense Directors. For the information and convenience of all concerned, a summary of essential information concerning organization and operation of this network, which is generally governed by the State Races Plan, is presented in Sub-paragraphs (a) through (f), immediately below:

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(a) Mr. Charles G. Landis, W3UA, who is Chairman of the Pennsylvania Civil Defense Radio Amateur System also serves as the State Radio Officer required by Paragraph 3.4 of the State Races Plan.

(b) Mr. Paul D. Mercado, W3FBF, Mr. E. Daniel Leibensperger, W3JXQ, and Mr. Robert A. Blackburn, W3MPO, who are, respectively, Eastern, Central and Western Area Directors of the Pennsylvania Civil Defense Radio Amateur System, also serve, respectively, as the Eastern, Central and Western Area Radio Officers required by Paragraph 3.41 of the State Races Plan.

(c) Each County Civil Defense Director is expected to appoint a County Radio Officer (for amateur operations) as required by Paragraph 3.43 of the State Races Plan. Working under direction of the County Civil Defense Director and in cooperation with the Area Radio Officer, the County Radio Officer is responsible for general supervision of amateur radio stations and personnel within the county, both those operating in the statewide, low frequency, inter-county network and those operating in the high frequency, intra-county network.

(d) The Area Radio Officer, after consultation with the County Civil Defense Director and the County Radio Officer, is expected to designate a qualified radio amateur within each county who shall be responsible for operation of the County Key Station, provided for in Paragraph 3.8 of the State Races Plan.

(e) The purpose of County Key Stations is to provide within each county an "outlet into and from" the statewide, low frequency, inter-county network. In other words, State and inter-county traffic to and from any given county will, in the main, "enter" and "leave" the county through the Key Station. To operate effectively, the individuals responsible for operation of each County Key Station obviously must own, or control, low-frequency equipment of the specific type required for inter-county operations. They also must be familiar with the procedures followed in such operations. Ideally, the County Key Station should be located in or near the County Civil Defense Control Center. Where this is impractical or impossible, it is essential that the County Key Station and the County Control Center be "linked" either by high frequency, intra-county radio or by telephone, or both.

The State Council of Civil Defense will provide each county with an electric generator to be used to provide emergency power for the County Key Station.

(f) According to Federal regulations, all Pennsylvania civil defense radio amateur emergency operations must be carried out in strict accordance with operational procedures and frequency assignments set forth in the State Races Plan, including those contained in Paragraphs 5 and 6, together with Appendix C, of the Plan.

7. Each County Radio Officer is reaponsible for developing a county-wide radio amateur communications plan and for preparation of a formal County Races Plan. Area Radio Officers will assist County Radio Officers in the preparation of these plans. In addition, the State Council of Civil Defense will provide, at the earliest possible date, copies of one or two approved County Races Plans to be used as a guide to be followed in developing additional county plans. One of these proposed "samples" has been approved by the Federal Civil Defense Administration and was forwarded to the Federal Communications Commission for final action on December 1, 1954. Federal Civil Defense Administration approval of the second is expected in the near future.

8. The State Council of Civil Defense will provide County and Local Civil Defense Directors and Pennsylvania Radio Amateurs with additional information concerning Races plans and operations as available.

Richard Gerstell
Director of Civil Defense

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